



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Violent Criminal Apprehension Team arrests **269** fugitives since late May of 2008

19 fugitives arrested last week

357 Felony Warrants cleared

On May 12, 2008, the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) was directed to develop a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional statewide plan to identify and arrest individuals with outstanding felony warrants. This statewide effort is known as the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT).

So far, VCAT efforts have resulted in the arrests of **269** fugitives, including 19 last week. A total of 357 felony warrants have been cleared. Some of those arrested last week include:

Gilbert C. Chavez was arrested for a felony warrant out of Maricopa County Superior Court for probation violation on forgery charges in the city of Surprise. **Chavez** was found to be hiding in the attic of his residence with a loaded shotgun nearby. **Chavez** also was found in possession of evidence indicating he was making and passing bad checks. **Chavez** became angry at VCAT detectives and put a hole in the wall with his head after being handcuffed. While being driven to jail, **Chavez** attempted to escape the seatbelt, restraints, and handcuffs. Detectives quickly pulled the unmarked vehicle over and restrained him while calling for a DPS patrol unit. **Chavez** also told VCAT detectives he was going to kill a police officer if he ever got out of jail. Later after obtaining a search warrant, detectives found in **Chavez's** garage, a reported stolen vehicle being stripped for parts to be sold.

Reynard James Bryant was arrested for possession of marijuana, dangerous drugs for sale, narcotic drugs for sale and misconduct involving a weapon. As VCAT detectives approached the home of **Gilbert Chavez** they noticed **Bryant** asleep in the back passenger seat of a car parked in the driveway. After arresting **Bryant** for the marijuana possession, detectives found a loaded Smith and Wesson .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun underneath the blanket **Bryant** was sleeping on. Detectives also found numerous narcotic drugs and dangerous drugs in his possession.

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | www.azdps.gov | pio@azdps.gov



Arizona Department of Public Safety

“Our VCAT Officers are working hard every day to locate fugitives. Thanks to the cooperation of numerous law enforcement agencies, we are taking these folks off the street and helping to make communities safer,” said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | www.azdps.gov | pio@azdps.gov